

the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to serve on the San Mateo County Health Plan Board where she works to ensure healthcare services for all those without insurance coverage.

Katherine McMillan has three loving, grown children . . . her two daughters Katherine and Mary; and her son, Robert, who is married to Julie and have given her two beautiful grandchildren, Sean McMillan, 6 years old, and Kenny "B" McMillan, 4 years old.

Katherine McMillan is especially proud of rearing her three children as a single working mother all of whom went on to college and are now productive members of our community. She is exceedingly proud of her two grandsons who carry the legacy of her extraordinary spirit into a third generation of McMillan's.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Katherine McMillan, a great and good woman, for her countless contributions to our community and our country and congratulate her on the attainment of her 75th birthday. We are indeed a better country and a better people because of this woman.

TRIBUTE TO JOE SERNA, MAYOR
OF SACRAMENTO

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in great sadness to pay tribute to a very distinguished leader, to one of the most honorable public servants I know, and to a true friend. On Sunday, the mayor of Sacramento, and my good friend Joe Serna, lost his courageous battle with kidney cancer. As the community mourns his loss, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in saluting the career and efforts of this extraordinary person.

Joe Serna was born in Stockton and raised in Lodi, California. He grew up the son of an immigrant farm worker, where he was taught the honorable values and hard work ethic that exemplified his career. It was here too that he began a storied and successful career, becoming a sheet metal worker at the age of 19. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science/government from Sacramento State College in 1966 and attended graduate school at UC, Davis, majoring in political science.

Always wanting to serve others, Mayor Serna entered the Peace Corps in 1966, working in Guatemala as a Community Development volunteer specializing in cooperatives and credit unions. Upon his return to the States, he continued his service by pursuing one of the most noble of all professions—he became a teacher. He joined the faculty at CSU, Sacramento, in 1969 becoming a professor of government. Of course the energy he brought to life was quickly transferred to his students in the classroom, and in 1991 he received the Distinguished Faculty Award.

Continuing his lifelong calling to public service, Joe Serna was first elected to the Sacramento City Council in 1981 and reelected in 1985 and 1989. He was then elected mayor of Sacramento in 1992 and again in 1996.

As mayor, Joe Serna left a proud legacy of leadership and accomplishments. He worked throughout his career to revitalize Sacramento's downtown which included initiating the Sacramento Downtown Partnership Association, the "Art in Public Places" program, and the Thursday Night Market. Joe Serna was selected in 1995 by the National Council for Urban Economic Development to receive their annual Economic Development Leadership Award.

He also established the Mayor's Commission on Our Children's Health and the Mayor's Commission on Education and the City's Future, which led to a new Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Trustees. As part of his active role in improving the Sacramento City School District, he founded the Mayor's Summer Reading Camp, a literacy program for below average scoring second and third grade students.

Over the past three decades Mayor Serna was a member of numerous organizations including the Regional Transit Board of Directors and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission. He was the Co-trustee of the Crocker Art Museum Association and an Advisory Board Member of Senior Gleaners, Inc. He also was a former Chair of the Sacramento City/County Sports Commission, member of the Board of the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, member of the Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission and Sacramento Air Quality Management Board. From 1970 to 1975, he served as the Director of the United Farmworkers of America's Support Committee in Sacramento County. Mayor Serna also served as a two-time presidential appointed member of the Board of Directors of "Freddie Mac."

Mayor Serna was known as an elected official with profound vision for the future and the energy to implement that vision. He knew how to build coalitions, ignite community involvement, and succeed in achieving his goals. Because of this vision, he leaves a proud legacy in Sacramento of downtown revitalization and growth, a stronger public school system, more jobs, more community police, and a higher quality of life.

What made Mayor Serna such a remarkable leader was his ability and willingness to listen to the community and make himself available to all voices that wanted to be heard. In an era when following the politically expedient route is commonplace, Mayor Serna was never afraid to fight for what he believed in if he knew it was the right thing to do. He never compromised his values and always brought a sense of honor and dignity to the Sacramento community. I thank him for his courage, for his kindness, and for the exceptional integrity he maintained throughout his career. Clearly, Mayor Serna leaves a new standard of leadership that we should all do well to follow.

I would also like to extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathies to Mayor Serna's wife, Isabelle, his son Phillip, and his daughter, Lisa. I along with the city of Sacramento and the California community mourn with them.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Sacramento has suffered a tremendous loss of one of its most distinguished and visionary leaders, as well as one of its best citizens. We will all miss him dearly.

REMEMBERING THOMAS D. WELLS
III

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great American, a great Texan, and a great friend. Thomas D. "Tommy" Wells, the long-time County Attorney for Lamar County, Texas, died on October 15, 1999, will be sorely missed.

Tommy served Lamar County as County Attorney for twenty years and will always be remembered as an exemplary public servant. But I will remember Tommy as a friend—a man dedicated to his family, committed to always doing the right thing.

My friend Tommy was an inspiration to the people of East Texas. He graduated from Paris High School and received his bachelor's degree from Baylor University. After graduating from law school at St. Mary's University, he returned to Paris to practice law.

Subsequently, Tommy won five consecutive elections to the County Attorney post. He was elected president of the Texas County and District Attorney's Association and also served on the State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee. After leaving his prosecutor's post for private practice, Tommy continued to serve his state as a special prosecutor.

Clearly Tommy was a credit to his profession—but his lasting legacy is his family. Tommy and his wife of thirty years, Rusty, raised two sons in Paris. Nothing was more important to Tommy Wells than his family.

His dedication to his family's activities brought him closer to his community. Tommy taught Sunday School for the First Baptist Church of Paris and coached football for Optimist teams. He was active with the Paris Boys Club. He served on the board of the Salvation Army and was a member of the "Old Men's Club."

Tommy Wells was not an old man, though. He died at age fifty-four. A young man both in age and spirit, he contributed more to Lamar County in his brief life than its residents ever could have asked of him.

Mr. Speaker, East Texas has lost a leader and a friend. His wife, sons, and mother have lost a dear member of their family. But the City of Paris and Lamar County gained so much from the life of Tommy Wells. We celebrate his life and are grateful for his time with us.

PARNICK JENNINGS

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, sooner or later, all of us have to deal with the death of a loved one. Often, during that difficult time, the devotion, counsel, and wisdom of another person can make a bad experience a little easier to bear.

Parnick Jennings of Rome, GA, is one such person. For the past 50 years, he has operated Jennings Funeral Home in Cartersville,